

Claims

1 A suit to be worn by a person in contact with water, said suit including an outer layer of material, and wherein at least a portion of the suit includes a layer of wool, or wool blended with other fibres or materials, which lies between the person and said layer of material.

2 A suit according to claim 1 characterised in that solely wool is used.

3 A suit according to claim 1 characterised in that the wool is mixed with other fibres or materials to add or provide specific performance features

4 A suit according to claim 1 characterised in that the wool or wool blended material is positioned over portions of the suit which when worn lie at any or any combination of the torso, legs and/or arms of the wearer.

5 A suit according to claim 1 characterised in that the suit is a wetsuit and at at least a portion or portions of said suit, water can pass between the inner surface of the said layer of material and the person wearing the suit.

6 A suit according to claim 5 characterised in that wool or wool blend is provided at said portion or portions to lie between the person and the said material layer.

7 A suit according to claim 6 characterised in that the wool or wool blend comes into contact with water which enters the wet suit.

8 A suit according to claim 5 characterised in that the wool or wool blend is provided wherever water is permitted to pass between the diver and layer of material.

9 A suit material according to claim 1 characterised in that the layer of material of the suit is manufactured from a rubber foam material such as neoprene or chloroprene.

10 A suit according to claim 1 characterised in that the wool or wool blend is separate to the layer of material and worn as a separate layer.

11 A suit according to claim 10 characterised in that attachment means are provided to attach the wool or wool blend material layer to the layer of material.

12 A suit according to claim 1 characterised in that the wool or wool blend is integral with the layer of material.

13 A suit according to claim 12 characterised in that the wool or wool blend is attached by lamination to the inner surface of the layer of material so as to lie adjacent the diver's skin when the suit is worn.

14 A suit according to any of the preceding claims characterised in that the wool which is used includes or is wholly, wool from the Merino breed of sheep.

15 A suit according to claim 1 characterised in that the suit includes an additional, outer, layer formed to provide protection from the external environment in which the suit is to be worn.

16 A suit according to claim 1 characterised in that the wool blend includes a synthetic yarn in a proportion of about 1% to 40% by weight of the overall weight of the blend.

17 A suit according to claim 16 characterised in that a material is added to the wool which is at least partially elasticated to offer improved elasticity (stretch) to the wool blend.

18 A method of manufacturing a wetsuit or drysuit for use with water, said method comprising forming a layer of material into a shape for wearing by a person, and wherein a layer of wool or wool containing material is provided to lie between the person and the layer of material when the suit is worn.

19 A method according to claim 18 characterised in that the method includes the step of laminating the wool material as a lining to the inner surface of the layer of material.

20 A method according to claim 18 characterised in that when in the form of a wetsuit the method includes the step of providing means in the said material to permit the flow of water between the inner surface of said layer and the persons skin when the wet suit is worn and providing control means to allow the control of the quantity of water.

21 A method according to claim 20 characterised in that the water passing into the area between the diver and the layer of material contacts and is absorbed by the wool or wool blend.

22 A wetsuit or drysuit for use with water, said suit including an outer layer of material and at least one inner portion formed of a knitted or woven material, said inner portion provided as an integral

part of the suit or to be worn as an inner layer over which the outer layer of material is placed.

23 A suit according to claim 22 characterised in that the knitted or woven material includes a wool and other material or fibre yarn, blend.

24 A suit according to claim 23 characterised in that the wool used is Merino wool and the yarn is synthetic.